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### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In view of the following remarks, reexamination of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-25 are currently pending. In response to the Office Action, Claims 1, 5, 6, 14-16, and 22-25 have been amended and Claims 8 and 18 have been cancelled. The amendments to Claims 1, 5, 6, 14-16, and 22-25 find support throughout the Specification and the Figures and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims now define patentable subject matter over the prior art cited by the Examiner and notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

#### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 3-18, and 20-25 were rejected in the Office Action as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,073,825 to Hilker in view of the Handbook for Pulp and Paper Technologies by Smook, and Claims 1-25 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,131,784 to Helgesson *et al.* in view of the Smook reference. In response, Claims 1, 5, 6, 14-16, and 22-25 have been amended and Claims 8 and 18 have been cancelled. More particularly, Claims 1, 14, and 22 have been amended to recite that the threading device is substantially planar and is pivotal about an end thereof proximate to the first transfer device so as to direct the web to the second transfer device without lateral displacement of the web. The amendments to the claims find support throughout the Specification and the Figures such as, for example, on Page 5, lines 17-20 and FIGS. 1-5. As such, no new matter has been added.

The Hilker '825 reference discloses a directional tail transfer threading apparatus that includes a tray defining a longitudinal path line. The longitudinal path line is positioned adjacent a first section in a papermaking machine where the paper tail exits and is aligned with the initial path of movement of the paper tail. The tray has one or more creases that extend across the tray width and bisect the longitudinal path line to effect a natural change in direction of the longitudinal path line through the tray. At least one of the creases bisects that longitudinal path line at an angle other than 90° to provide a lateral displacement in the portion of the tray that follows this crease. That crease allows the paper tail to fold along its width on an angle that is

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not perpendicular to the natural downstream path of travel of the paper tail. The fold angle is selected to deliver the paper tail to a threading nip located laterally offset to the outside of the normal direction of paper travel. The tray is laid flat when inoperative and then folded along the crease(s) when operative to direct the paper tail to the threading nip.

The Helgesson '784 reference discloses a threading device for drawing a web through an open draw, with the aid of a leader, between first and second web-carrying elements, and includes a stand structure and a transfer member having the width of the leader. The transfer member is arranged to be inserted at and above the first web-carrying element and to be set in various positions. The device also has setting members for setting the position and direction of the transfer member in relation to the second web-carrying element, a traveling member to carry and move the transfer member, and an actuator for operating the traveling member. The transfer member has a substantially coherent sliding surface with a curvature increasing in the downstream direction so as to direct the leader toward the inlet nip of the drying section. The setting members allow for setting the height of the transfer member above the web, adjusting the distance between the transfer member and the traveling member in its direction of travel, and the angle of feed and entry angle of the transfer member and thus the web. The transfer member is initially retracted to a waiting position outside the web edge and then pushed laterally by the actuator to a threading (operating) position in the event of web rupture. The transfer member may also be further retracted to a felt-changing position.

The Smook reference discloses press section configurations and web processing parameters.

In contrast and as now claimed, embodiments of the present invention are directed to a threading device disposed between first and second transfer members, wherein the threading device has opposed ends and is substantially planar. The threading device is further configured to be pivotal about the end proximate the first transfer device, between an inoperative position and an operative position. As such, in the operative position, the threading device is pivoted so as to direct the web toward the second transfer device, without laterally displacing the web.

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The Federal Circuit has consistently stated that a finding of obviousness requires a specific teaching, motivation, or suggestion to combine the teachings of individual items of prior art. See, e.g., *In Re Sang Su Lee*, No. 00-1158 (Fed. Cir. January 18, 2002) (factual question of motivation to combine is material to patentability and could not be resolved on subjective belief and unknown authority); *C.R. Bard, Inc. v M3 Systems, Inc.*, 157 F.3d 1340, 1352 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (a showing of a suggestion, teaching, or motivation to combine is an essential evidentiary component of an obviousness holding); *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1265 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (Examiner can satisfy burden of obviousness in light of combination only by showing some objective teaching leading to the combination); and *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1075 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (evidence of teaching or suggestion essential to avoid hindsight).

In this instance, the Hilker '825 reference discloses tray for a directional tail transfer threading apparatus, wherein the tray has one or more creases for effecting a natural change in direction of the longitudinal path line through the tray, since at least one of the creases bisects that longitudinal path line at an angle other than 90° to provide a lateral displacement in the portion of the tray that follows this crease. The fold angle of the crease is selected to deliver the paper tail to a threading nip located laterally offset to the outside of the normal direction of paper travel. Further, the Helgesson '784 reference discloses a threading device having a transfer member arranged to be inserted at and above the first web-carrying element and to be set in various positions, wherein the transfer member has a substantially coherent sliding surface with a curvature increasing in the downstream direction so as to direct the leader toward the inlet nip of the drying section, and wherein the transfer member is initially retracted to a waiting position outside the web edge and then pushed laterally by the actuator to a threading (operating) position in the event of web rupture. As such, neither the Hilker '825 reference nor the Helgesson '784 reference teaches, suggests, or provides motivation for a threading device disposed between first and second transfer members, wherein the threading device is substantially planar and configured to be pivotable about the end proximate the first transfer device so as to direct the web toward the second transfer device, without laterally displacing the web. The Applicant thus submits that neither the Hilker '825 reference nor the Helgesson '784 reference would teach, suggest or motivate one skilled in the art to arrive at the Applicant's invention, as asserted in the

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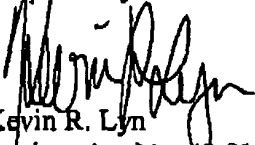
Office Action. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that embodiments of the present invention, as now defined by Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-25, are patentable over the Hilker '825, Helgesson '784, and Smook references.

In summary, none of the Hilker '825, Helgesson '784, and Smook references, either singularly or in combination, teach, suggest, or provide motivation for the embodiments of the present invention, as now claimed in Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-25. Accordingly, in view of these differences between the Applicant's invention and the Hilker '825, Helgesson '784, and Smook references, it is submitted that the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. As such, Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-25 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that all claims now pending are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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